

PY G192.2 P996w 2004 c.1
Pymatuning Wildlife
Management Area



Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area

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Hunting Opportunities

SGL 214 encompasses more than 8,000 acres in Crawford County, near the Ohio border, and offers fields, swamps and more than 800 acres of impoundments for hunting. Migrations bring large concentrations of Canada geese and ducks to the area, making it a prime spot for hunting waterfowl. The Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area provides many hunting opportunities, some of which are on a limited basis, and can be



Larissa Rose



Regis Senko

Game Commission's website. Deer hunts are held on a year-to-year basis, depending on population densities and harvest objectives. Information on controlled deer hunts may be obtained in early September by calling the Northwest region office at 877-877-0299.

Public hunting opportunities for all game can be found on the game lands adjacent to the controlled hunting area. Be sure to pay attention to posted signs designating hunting areas.

Land Management Practices

Pymatuning is managed for wildlife through various practices. Wetland manipulations, through drawdowns and flooding, help control invasive plants and allow native,

beneficial plants to flourish. The drawdowns expose mudflats during peak migrations for shore and wading birds, making them especially attractive for these species. The area is also managed for different forest habitats through timbering. One example, early successional forest management, involves clearcutting, which creates brushy areas for species such as rabbits and woodcock.

A great way to manage the area for wildlife is farming. The fields in the area are farmed by sharecroppers, who share with us a portion of their crops. The fields are planted in a six-year rotation of two years of corn, two years of small grains and two years of hay. As part of their agreement, sharecroppers may not mow hay until after the nesting season is over, providing cover for upland nesting birds such as the endangered upland sandpiper, as well as bobolinks.

Research

Ducks have been banded at Pymatuning since the 1950s, but in 1989, an intensive banding program for ducks and geese was launched, providing information about waterfowl movements, survival and harvest rates, all of which are critical to waterfowl management and the setting of hunting regulations. On average, about 3,000 ducks and 200 to 300 geese are banded every year; ducks from the area have been recovered in more than 20 states.

In April 2001 and 2002, biologists placed web tags on more than 1,000 newly hatched goslings in the area. The web-tagged birds that were recaptured and leg-banded two months later helped biologists learn more about gosling survival rates. When hunters report web-tags (as well as leg bands), they are providing valuable information about gosling production.



Scott Rheam

Wildlife Learning Center

The Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center features learning-based exhibits and offers special programs and activities to make a visitor's experience more informative and entertaining.

The Learning Center (open the first week of April through September) is along Hartstown Road, just south of Linesville. Call 1-814-683-5545 for scheduling and any special events that may be offered.



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bobcat cavern, wildlife and wetlands, birds of prey and wildlife young.

A "Hunting Heritage Room," a replica of an early Pennsylvania

hunting and trapping cabin, depicts the important role that hunting and trapping have played and will play in Pennsylvania's past, present and future.

Outside the learning center, exhibits have been created to show ways people can attract wildlife to their backyards. Also, a deer enclosure area shows what effect deer can have on habitat.

Bluebird boxes, a bat condominium, a purple martin colony and many other wildlife houses and feeders all provide exciting wildlife watching opportunities.

Exhibits
More than 300 mounted specimens of native birds and mammals can be viewed. Habitat displays show many species in their natural surroundings. Exhibits feature endangered species, a



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Programs

Lectures, slide programs, videos and guided nature walks are offered, and specialized group programs are provided on a scheduled basis. Visit the Game Commission's web site at www.pgc.state.pa.us for current offerings. Contact the Learning Center at 1-814-683-5545 for more details.

Nature Trail

The quarter-mile nature trail is a short, easy walk along the east shore of Ford Island. Opportunities exist to see a variety of wildlife. Learning stations along

the trail provide information on wildlife, habitat, and the Pymatuning region. A handout is available at the Learning Center to help hikers identify trees, shrubs and points of interest. The trail, which is self-guided and handicapped accessible, begins near the Learning Center and ends at the parking lot.



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Activities

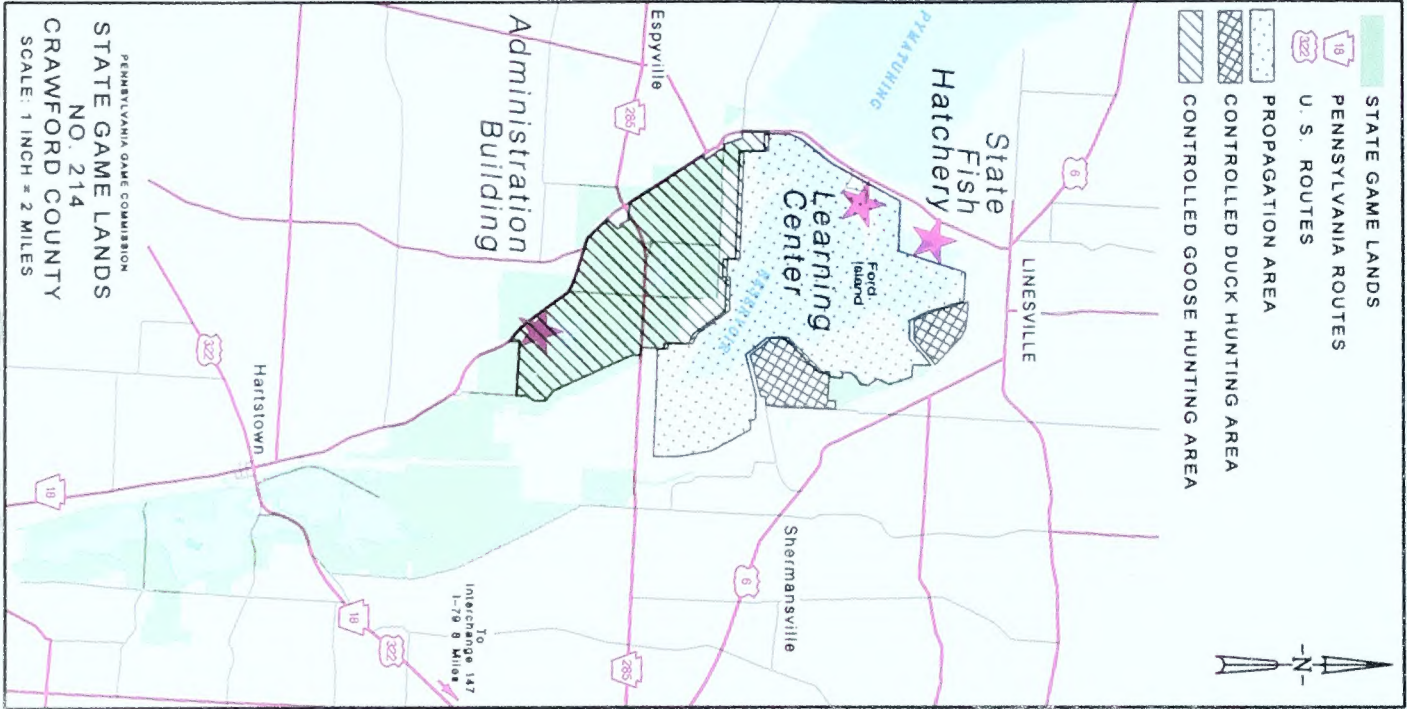
A variety of outdoor and wildlife related activities, fun for all ages, will test your knowledge of Pennsylvania's environment and wild critters. Fur identification, skull identification, and bird and mammal charts are among the challenges. Outdoors, try out the tree identification trail and "Whose Home is This?" activities.



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Directions:

Take I-79 to exit 147B (US 6 West/322 West) toward Conneaut Lake. Follow Route 6 approximately 15 miles into Linesville. At the light in Linesville, turn left, and continue on for approximately 1 mile. The entrance to the Learning Center will be on your left.



Pennsylvania Game Commission's
Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center

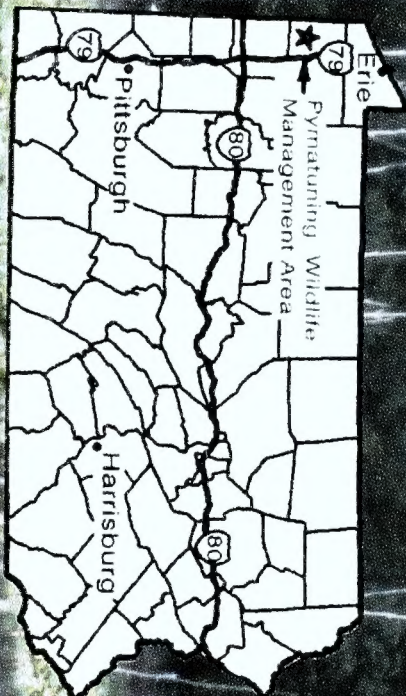
12590 Hartstown Road

Linesville, PA 16424

814-683-5545

Northwest Regional Office

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Pymatuning includes public and private land around Pymatuning Lake. This brochure covers what the Pennsylvania Game Commission has to offer visitors to the area.



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History

Pymatuning is an Iroquois Indian name, probably from the Seneca tribe. It means "The Crooked-Mouth Man's Dwelling Place," with "crooked-mouth" referring to a Native American who was not famous for truth telling.

Pymatuning was once a lake, but after the glaciers came through more than 14,000 years ago, the land was flattened, leaving only a swamp.

In 1913, a severe flood caused the legislature to pass the Pymatuning Dam Act, authorizing the construction of the lake and appropriating \$100,000 to initiate

building a dam. Over the next 18 years, public and private organizations raised \$3,717,739 to build the dam.

The Pymatuning Dam Act states that the primary purpose of the Pymatuning Reservoir shall be for the conservation of waters entering the Pymatuning Swamp and for regulating the flow of water in the Shenango and Beaver rivers.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission acquired some of the original acreage from the then Department of Forests and Waters in 1935, and set aside the upper reservoir as a game refuge.

Pymatuning lake is 16 miles long with 70 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 35 feet. In all, the Pymatuning reservoir is made up of 25,000 acres — 17,000 water and 8,000 land.



Terry McClelland

Activities for People

Ford Island, part of the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area, offers many opportunities. A wide variety of wildlife, including bald eagles, inhabit the area.

Visitors can watch wildlife by walking along designated hiking paths, and there's even a

trail for physically challenged outdoor enthusiasts. Visitors can also take a driving tour or just sit on benches to view wildlife.

Bird watching is a popular activity at Pymatuning,

particularly for bald eagles. The area has long been a home for bald eagles. From



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1963 through 1980, only three pairs at most were known to nest in Pennsylvania, and all were in the Pymatuning area. In recent years, bald eagles have begun nesting in many areas throughout

Pennsylvania, but they still remain a popular attraction at Pymatuning. Eagles are now sighted frequently around the area and, with a spotting scope or binoculars, a bald eagle nest can be seen from the front patio of the Learning Center. Wildlife enthusiasts are permitted throughout the game lands on roads and public access areas. Just obey posted signs marking restricted areas.

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